

generating a laser beam having a wavelength of between 1.4 and 2.2 microns;

directing the beam into a proximal end of a fiber optic cable, with the other end of the fiber optic cable defining the distal end thereof;

positioning the distal end of the fiber optic cable at the surgical site; and

removing tissue at the surgical site with the laser beam.

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~~51~~ 50. A method as recited in Claim ~~71~~ ⁵⁰ wherein the laser beam is generated by a Ho:YAG laser.

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~~52~~ 50. A method as recited in Claim ~~77~~ ⁵⁰ wherein the laser beam is generated by a Ho:YLF laser.

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~~53~~ 50. A method of performing a surgical procedure for the removal of biological tissue comprising the steps of:

providing a fiber optic cable with a proximal end and a distal end, with the fiber optic cable being surrounded by an elongated tubular member;

generating a laser beam having a wavelength of between 1.4 and 2.2 microns;

directing the beam into the proximal end of the fiber optic cable;

positioning the distal end of the fiber optic cable at the surgical site;

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removing tissue at the surgical site with the laser beam; and

transmitting a fluid medium to the surgical site.

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81. A method as recited in Claim ⁵³80 wherein the laser beam is generated by a Ho:YAG laser.

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82. A method as recited in Claim ⁵³80 wherein the laser beam is generated by a Ho:YLF laser.

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83. A method of performing a surgical procedure for the removal of biological tissue comprising the steps of:
generating a laser beam having a wavelength of between 1.4 and 2.2 microns;

directing the beam into a proximal end of the fiber optic cable, with the other end of the fiber optic cable defining the distal end thereof;

positioning the distal end of the fiber optic cable at the surgical site;

removing tissue at the surgical site with the laser beam; and

transmitting a fluid medium to the surgical site.

REMARKS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.607 Applicant hereby seeks to have an interference declared among the above-identified application, U.S. Patent No. 5,147,354 ('354 patent), and U.S. Patent No. 5,037,421 ('421 patent). A proposed count which